

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 205
By Beavers

A RESOLUTION urging public library boards in Tennessee to adopt a policy of requiring public libraries to obtain parental consent prior to allowing a minor to check out library materials that are rated "R" or "NC-17".

WHEREAS, public libraries extend to all people the benefits and joys of reading, lifelong learning, and discovery to all who come through their doors, thereby serving their communities with integrity and skill, and thus preserving and sharing across generations much-needed wisdom, culture, and history; and

WHEREAS, maintaining firmly the freedom to read, learn, and discover, our public libraries strive to provide equal access to information, ideas, and knowledge through books, programs, and other resources; and

WHEREAS, with freedom, comes responsibility; we, as a society, should be responsible enough to keep those materials of an adult nature within our culture from the innocent minds of children, and such materials should definitely not be easily accessible to children through our public libraries; and

WHEREAS, as a society, we are responsible for keeping our children's young and impressionable minds from being exposed to worldly things beyond their years, and we should make every effort to prevent the loss of their innocence and the carefree joys of being a child; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this General Assembly hereby urges each library board established in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 3, Part 1, to require the public libraries under their authority to obtain parental consent prior to allowing a minor to check out library materials that are rated "R" or "NC-17".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly urges public libraries to obtain such written parental consent by requiring a parental signature on the minor child's library card.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of State for distribution to the various public library boards.